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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 ZAGREB 000159

SIPDIS

EUR FOR DAS BRADTKE AND DAS BOGUE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/22/2013

TAGS: PARM PREL PHUM HR IT NATO ITNATO SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR DAS BOGUE AND BRADTKE VISIT TO ZAGREB

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REF: A. ZAGREB 107

B. ZAGREB 127

C. ZAGREB 72

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE ROSSIN FOR REASONS 1.5 (B,D)

SUMMARY

11. (C) YOUR VISIT TO ZAGREB WILL TAKE PLACE JUST DAYS AFTER CROATIA'S FIRST ANP REVIEW AT NATO AND IN THE MIDST OF THE GOC'S PROCESS OF RE-DEFINING ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATO'S OTHER CONTINUING ASPIRANTS. BUT NATO IS NOT MUCH IN THE NEWS IN ZAGREB THESE DAYS; FOCUS IS ON RELATIONS WITH ICTY, CROATIA'S APPLICATION FOR EU MEMBERSHIP, A DOCTOR'S STRIKE AND -- AS ALWAYS -- INTERNAL POLITICS. YOUR VISIT SHOULD HELP TO REMIND THE PUBLIC HERE THAT NATO STILL CONSIDERS CROATIA A SERIOUS CANDIDATE BASED ON ITS OWN EFFORTS TO PREPARE FOR MEMBERSHIP. IT WILL ALSO BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE THE MESSAGE ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT CIVIL SOCIETY REFORMS, INCLUDING REFUGEE RETURN AND REINTEGRATION ARE TO THEIR CANDIDACY AND TO ENCOURAGE THE GOC TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DOWNSIZE AND RESTRUCTURE THE ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

NEW MOMENTUM FROM PRAGUE SUMMIT

12. (C) BY THE TIME THE PRAGUE SUMMIT TOOK PLACE, THE PUBLIC HERE WAS WELL-USED TO THE FACT THAT CROATIA WOULD NOT RECEIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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AN INVITATION. WHILE THE GOC FAILED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SUMMIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR NATO AT HOME, THEY DID USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN TO REDEFINE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER CONTINUING ASPIRANTS. EVEN IF CRITICS CARPED, GOC OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED THE SUMMIT NOTED THE DIFFERENCE IN HOW CROATIA WAS TREATED AT PRAGUE AS COMPARED TO THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT. THEY TOOK THE "TOUGH LOVE" MESSAGE ON BOARD, YET WERE ENCOURAGED BY THEIR RECOGNITION AS A SERIOUS CANDIDATE WITH SERIOUS WORK TO DO.

PRE-ELECTION POLITICS AN INCREASING DISTRACTION

13. (C) THE COALITION LED BY PM RACAN'S SDP JUST COMPLETED ITS THIRD YEAR IN GOVERNMENT (SEE REF A FOR BROADER OUTLINE). ALTHOUGH, BY LAW, ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD AS LATE AS APRIL 2004, MANY OBSERVERS PREDICT THEY WILL TAKE PLACE THIS AUTUMN. PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGNING IS ALREADY WELL UNDERWAY AND IS A SERIOUS DISTRACTION TO THOSE IN THE COALITION STILL COMMITTED TO MOVING REFORMS ALONG. RACAN'S SDP IS FACED WITH A RESURGENT HDZ WHILE AT THE SAME TIME HE IS TRYING TO KEEP INCREASINGLY UNRULY SMALLER COALITION PARTNERS IN LINE. ALL TOO OFTEN, THE RESULT IS POLICY PARALYSIS EVEN ON THE GOVERNMENT'S NARROW ELECTION-YEAR AGENDA.

THE BOBETKO INDICTMENT: THE GOC'S SELF-INFLICTED WOUND

- 14. (C) THE GOC'S MISHANDLING OF THE BOBETKO INDICTMENT CRYSTALLIZED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S FRUSTRATION WITH CROATIA'S PROGRESS ON KEY REFORMS NEEDED FOR INTEGRATION IN CONFIDENTIAL
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 EURO-ATLANTIC INSTITUTIONS. THIS CHANGE IN APPROACH TO
 CROATIA IS MOST DRAMATIC AMONG EU MEMBER STATES WHICH HAD
 BEEN WILLING TO GIVE THE GOC THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT ON SOME
 OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES WHICH HAVE THEIR ORIGINS IN THE ETHNIC
 WAR OF THE PREVIOUS DECADE. NO LONGER. TWO EU MEMBER STATES
 HAVE DELAYED CONSIDERATION OF CROATIA'S STABILIZATION AND
 ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT (SAA) PENDING A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF
 THE BOBETKO CASE. EU STATES ARE PRESSING THE GOC HARDER TO
 APPREHEND 2001 ICTY INDICTEE GENERAL ANTE GOTOVINA, WHO
 REMAINS AT LARGE.
- ¶5. (C) EVER SINCE THE GOVERNMENT FINALLY DELIVERED THE

INDICTMENT AGAINST BOBETKO TO THE LOCAL COURT OF JURISDICTION, CROATIA HAS BEEN IN FORMAL COOPERATION WITH ICTY. A COURT-APPOINTED MEDICAL TEAM DETERMINED THAT BOBETKO IS TOO ILL TO GO THROUGH THE STRESS OF THE INDICTMENT, LET ALONE TRAVEL TO THE HAGUE. AN ICTY MEDICAL TEAM WAS IN ZAGREB ON JANUARY 15 TO REVIEW THE LOCAL MEDICAL FINDINGS AND TO EXAMINE BOBETKO. THE RESULTS OF THAT EXAMINATION WILL SOON BE MADE PUBLIC. THE WAVE OF EMOTIONAL NATIONALISM THAT FOLLOWED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INDICTMENT HAS RECEDED, AND WITH IT PM RACAN'S REAL FEARS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT -- AND PUBLIC

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ACTION EUR-00

AF-00 INFO LOG-00 NP-00AMAD-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PERC-00 EAP-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 PM-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 DS-00 MED-07 AC-01 ACE-00 TRM-00SSO-00 PMB-00 SSD-00 SS-00 R - 0.0DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-02 SWCI-00 /010W NFAT-00 SAS-00

-----29D744 221843Z /38

O 221828Z JAN 03
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9266
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SKOPJE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TIRANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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ORDER -- WERE IN DANGER. WHAT REMAINS IS THE MISTRUST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE BITTERNESS OF SOME KEY GOC OFFICIALS (LIKE DEPUTY PM GORAN GRANIC) WHO MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN TO CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE WHAT THEY FEEL IS AN UNFAIR INDICTMENT OF THE GOALS OF CROATIA'S "HOMELAND WAR."

EU MEMBERSHIP

16. (C) WHILE CROATIA IS KEEN FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP, THE GOC'S TOP FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITY IS THE EU. RACAN HAS RECENTLY BEGUN A "EUROPEAN OFFENSIVE" AIMED AT GETTING CROATIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH KEY MEMBER STATES BACK ON TRACK AFTER BOBETKO. THE GOC IS COMMITTED TO SUBMITTING FORMALLY ITS APPLICATION FOR EU MEMBERSHIP IN THE SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF CROATIA'S APPLICATION IS TECHNICAL IN NATURE, IF CONSIDERATION IS POSTPONED FOR POLITICAL REASONS, IT COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ELECTORAL CHANCES OF PM RACAN'S SDP.

FAILURE ON REFUGEE RETURN

- 17. (C) THE POLICY AREA IN WHICH THE RACAN GOVERNMENT'S PROGRESS HAS BEEN MOST DISAPPOINTING IS REFUGEE RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT. THE LEVEL OF GOC INACTION AND LACK OF COLLABORATION IS REACHING A POINT WHERE THE LOCAL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS CONSIDERING PULLING OUT OF COLLABORATIVE MECHANISMS (THE JOINT LEGAL WORKING GROUP) TO PREVENT THE GOC FROM CLAIMING IN THEIR EU "CHARM OFFENSIVE" CONFIDENTIAL.
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 THAT IT IS ENGAGED WITH US ON REFUGEE RETURN ISSUES. DESPITE
 CHANGES IN KEY LAWS AND A SERIES OF COMMITMENTS TO THE
 INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE NUMBER OF ETHNIC SERBS RETURNING
 TO THEIR HOMES IS FAR BELOW WHAT IT SHOULD BE. LEGAL AND
 ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS REMAIN DESPITE GOC ASSERTIONS TO THE
 CONTRARY. THE REASONS FOR THIS FAILURE VARY, AND WE DON'T
 EXPECT YOU TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR GOC INTERLOCUTORS ON THE
 SUBSTANCE OF THIS COMPLEX ISSUE ON THIS VISIT. YOUR MESSAGE
 SHOULD BE STRACHTFORWARD: THE CONSENSUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
 COMMUNITY IS THAT CROATIA IS NOT TAKING THIS ISSUE SERIOUSLY.
 UNTIL CROATIA MAKES A REAL COMMITMENT AND PRODUCES
 SIGNIFICANT RESULTS, ITS CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN

STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE WAR ON TERROR

(C) CROATIA RATES HIGH PRAISE FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM. FROM ITS IMMEDIATE STATEMENTS OF POLITICAL SUPPORT IN SOLIDARITY WITH US TO ITS CONTRIBUTIONS OF HUMANITARIAN AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN TO ITS DECISION TO DEPLOY A MILITARY POLICE UNIT TO ISAF, THE GOC HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN IN THE FRONT RANKS OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR. YOUR EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION WILL BE WELCOME IN YOUR MEETINGS WITH GOC OFFICIALS AND IN YOUR STATEMENTS TO THE MEDIA. (NOTE: A SCHEDULE CHANGE HAS DELAYED THE FIRST GREEK AIRLIFT OF CROATIA'S DONATION OF WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS TO THE ANA. END NOTE.)

IRAQ

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19. (C) ON IRAQ, OFFICIAL CROATIA SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING THE STANDARD EUROPEAN LINE. THE GOC ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING FOR IRAQ TO "DEMONSTRATE THAT IT DOES NOT PRESENT A THREAT' TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY (REF C), BUT ALSO EXPRESSING ANGST THAT ANY ACTION SHOULD BE SANCTIONED BY UN MECHANISMS. THE MFA ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE TO TRACK THE IRAQ ISSUE (WE ARE ENGAGING WITH THE TASK FORCE TO USE IT AS ANOTHER CONDUIT FOR USG VIEWS), BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS GENERALLY KEEPING A LOW PROFILE ON IRAQ. FM PICULA, FRESH FROM A TRIP TO THE MID-EAST HAS IN SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECT THERE OF A POSSIBLE WAR IN IRAQ.

CONVENTIONAL/DUAL-USE PROLIFERATION

10. (C) IN SEPTEMBER 2001, AT OUR URGING, CROATIA CANCELLED A CONTRACT FOR HIGH-SPEED PATROL BOATS TO IRAN; THE SHIPYARD WHICH WAS TO HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE CONTRACT WENT BANKRUPT AND AN ITALIAN FIRM APPARENTLY NOW HAS THE CONTRACT WITH

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AMAD-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PERC-00 AF-00 TNFO LOG-00 NP = 0.0EAP-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 VC-00 VCE-00 MED-07 DS-00 AC-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 PM-00 ACE-00 IRM-00 SSO-00 R-00 SSD-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 SS-00 R-00 SSD-00 PMB-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 SWCI-00 /010W DRT:-02

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O 221828Z JAN 03

FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9267

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SKOPJE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TIRANA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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(THE GOC IS EITHER UNAWARE OF THIS OR HAS CHOSEN NOT TO POINT IT OUT TO US. SOONER OR LATER, WORD THAT THIS HAPPENED WILL GET AROUND; HOW WE HANDLE IT WILL BE DECISIVE TO FUTURE GOC COOPERATION ON SUCH DEALS.) NOW, THE GOC IS DEBATING WHETHER TO PROCEED -- OVER OUR OBJECTIONS -- WITH A CONTRACT TO REFIT A LIBYAN NAVY DIVER SUPPORT VESSEL. WE KNOW OUR PRESSURE HAS HAD A BIG THOUGH NOT YET CLEARLY DECISIVE IMPACT. WE LOOK TO YOUR VISIT TO HELP KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE GOC TO REJECT THE CONTRACT AND OTHER CONTACTS WHICH COULD LEAD TO TRANSFERS OF LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.

- 111. (C) DEFENSE REFORMS, BEGUN LATE LAST YEAR, ARE PROGRESSING SLOWLY. REORGANIZATION OF THE MOD AND CROATIAN ARMED FORCES IS HAMPERED BY A DYSFUNCTIONAL PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND A LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE MOD'S AMBITIOUS AND COSTLY -- ALBEIT ESSENTIAL -- DOWNSIZING PROGRAM. THE DEFENSE REFORM PROCESS HAS GAINED NEW MOMENTUM WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A MORE DYNAMIC NEW DEFENSE MINISTER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZELJKA ANTUNOVIC (SDP). TWO OF THE CHALLENGES ANTUNOVIC MUST FACE ARE A SHRINKING DEFENSE BUDGET, 70 PERCENT OF WHICH IS DEVOTED TO PERSONNEL COSTS, AND A MILITARY ELITE THAT IS MISTRUSTFUL OF HER LEADERSHIP.
- 12. (C) ANTUNOVIC HAS OBTAINED POLITICAL APPROVAL FOR A FAR-REACHING RESTRUCTURING PROGRAM, BUT IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEEN SLOWED BY POLITICAL BICKERING. THE GOC HAS BEGUN TO CONFIDENTIAL
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 MOVE FORWARD ON DOWNSIZING THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES (CAF)
 AND THE MOD, A STEP ESSENTIAL FOR BUILDING A

 NATO-INTEROPERABLE FORCE. A DETAILED, NATO-APPROVED, BUT
 VERY EXPENSIVE DOWNSIZING PLAN REMAINS ON THE SHELF AS THE
 GOC SEEKS EXTERNAL SOURCES OF FUNDING TO HELP IMPLEMENT IT.

 ANTUNOVIC ANNOUNCED SHE WILL MOVE FORWARD WITH A
 SELF-FINANCED PILOT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE 400 MOD EMPLOYEES,
 BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, TO LEAVE THE RANKS. BUT
 ESTIMATES SAY THAT TO "RIGHT-SIZE" THE CAF MUST LAY OFF OR
 OFFER EARLY RETIREMENT TO MORE THAN 10,000 PERSONNEL, NEARLY
 ALL OF WHOM ARE VETERANS OF CROATIA'S HOMELAND WAR. IN YOUR
 MEETING, ANTUNOVIC MAY ASK FOR INCREASED U.S. SUPPORT TO FUND
 DOWNSIZING. OUR ONLY ENGAGEMENT ON THIS ISSUE IS A PUBLIC
 INFORMATION PROJECT AIMED AT BUILDING SUPPORT FOR THIS POLICY
 GOAL, BEYOND THIS MODEST PROJECT, THERE IS NO ROOM IN OUR
 ASSISTANCE BUDGET TO FUND DOWNSIZING. ANTUNOVIC WILL ALSO
 MENTION CROATIA'S CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE COALITION AGAINST
 TERRORISM AND WILL SEEK TO EXPLORE AREAS WHERE U.S.
 ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED TO SECURE CROATIA'S MARITIME BORDER AND
 COUNTER WMD PROLIFERATION.

BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION

- 113. (C) U.S. MILITARY COOPERATION WITH CROATIA SURGED AFTER THE 2000 ELECTIONS, BUT THE NUMBER OF BILATERAL EXERCISES DROPPED IN THE FOLLOWING TWO YEARS AS OUR FORCES HAVE BEEN ENGAGED ELSEWHERE. RESTRICTIONS TO OUR ENGAGEMENT IN CROATIA ARE CREEPING IN AT THE LEGAL LEVEL: UNWORKABLE RESTRICTIONS PREVENTING NUCLEAR POWERED VESSELS FROM ANCHORING IN CROATIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS, ISSUES PREVENTING SHIPS FROM IMPLEMENTING CONFIDENTIAL
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 POST-USS COLE FORCE PROTECTION PROCEDURES (AND THEREBY
 PREVENTING USN SHIP VISITS), AND PUBLIC OBJECTIONS TO
 EXERCISES DURING THE CONSTANTLY-EXPANDING TOURIST SEASON NOW
 TOP THE LIST. DASD RICARDEL'S DELEGATION (SEE BELOW) WILL
 ADDRESS THESE ISSUES IN DEPTH DURING ITS VISIT, BUT RAISING
 THE ISSUE IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS WOULD FLAG IT FOR THE GOC'S
 ATTENTION.

CROATIA'S BUSY POL-MIL SCHEDULE

114. (C) CROATIA'S POLITICAL-MILITARY POLICY MAKERS HAVE A VERY FULL DANCE CARD FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IN ADDITION TO YOUR VISIT AND THE ANP REVIEW, CROATIA IS ACTIVELY DRAFTING AN "ADRIATIC CHARTER" WITH ALBANIA AND MACEDONIA (REF B). AS YOU KNOW, BRUCE JACKSON WAS IN ZAGREB FOR MEETINGS, INCLUDING WITH FM PICULA. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MIRA RICARDEL WILL BE IN ZAGREB WITH A DELEGATION FROM FEBRUARY 3 - 6 FOR THE BILATERAL DEFENSE CONSULTATIONS. (THE KEY "DELIVERABLE" FOR THIS VISIT SHOULD BE THE SIGNING OF AN

"DELIVERABLE" FOR THIS VISIT SHOULD BE THE SIGNING OF AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT COVERING PROVISION OF WMD ASSISTANCE FROM OSD.) AT THE SAME TIME, NATO'S ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

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INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AF-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PERC-00 DS-00 EAP-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 MED-07 AC-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 PM-00 ACE-00 IRM-00 SSO-00 SS-00 R-00 SSD-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00 SWCI-00 /010W

O 221828Z JAN 03 FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9268 INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SKOPJE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TIRANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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GUNTHER ALTENBURG WILL BE IN CROATIA WITH A PARP TEAM TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF CROATIA'S PARTNERSHIP GOALS.

POINTS TO MAKE

115. (C) IN YOUR SHORT VISIT, YOU WILL HAVE THREE KEY SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS, A PRESS EVENT AND A DINNER WITH A CROSS-SECTION OF CROATIAN LEADERS. AT ALL OF YOUR MEETINGS, YOU SHOULD TOUCH ON THE ELEMENTS OF THE CHECKLIST BELOW, ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY REFORMS NEEDED FOR PROGRESS TOWARD NATO MEMBERSHIP. IN YOUR MEETING WITH FM PICULA, YOU MAY WISH TO ASK ABOUT PROGRESS ON THE ADRIATIC CHARTER AND HIT THE LIBYA ISSUE. DEFMIN ANTUNOVIC HAS A KEY VOICE IN THE GOC DEBATE ON THE LIBYA SHIP REFIT. YOU SHOULD ASK HOW SHE INTENDS TO PRIORITIZE REFORMS ABSENT RESOURCES TO ADDRESS ALL ISSUES; DASD RICARDEL'S DELEGATION WILL ADDRESS THIS ISSUE IN GREATER DEPTH. WITH THE NEWLY FORMED INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP FOR NATO'S MAP PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD ENCOURAGE THE GROUP'S DEVELOPMENT INTO AN ACTIVE POLICY-MAKING BODY.

CHECKLIST OF ISSUES TO RAISE WITH CROATIAN INTERLOCUTORS

- NATO'S OPEN DOOR.
- URGE CLOSE COOPERATION WITH OTHER "CONTINUING ASPIRANTS," BUT REITERATE THAT INVITATIONS WILL BE ISSUED ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

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- NEED MORE THAN DEFENSE REFORMS TO GET AN INVITATION TO NATO; CROATIA NEEDS TO MAKE MORE PROGRESS ON CIVIL SOCIETY REFORMS.
- LITMUS TESTS WILL BE FULL COOPERATION WITH ICTY AND MEASURABLE PROGRESS ON REFUGEE RETURN AND REINTEGRATION; NEED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN RHETORIC AND REALITY.
- REACTION TO CROATIA'S FIRST ANP REVIEW.
- NEED TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM STRATEGY TO MAINTAIN AND BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CROATIA'S BID FOR NATO. NO PLAN EXISTS NOW, POLLS SHOW PUBLIC SUPPORT WANING.
- COMMEND PREVLAKA AGREEMENT, CLOSER RELATIONS WITH FRY. NOW THAT NATIONALIST PARTIES IN BOSNIA WILL BECOME OUR INTERLOCUTORS, WE WILL ALL NEED TO REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT CENTRAL INSTITUTIONS AND PREVENT BACKSLIDING TOWARDS NATIONALIST, CENTRIFUGAL POLICIES.
- HAIL CROATIAN SUPPORT FOR ANTI-TERRORIST COALITION; WILL LOOK FOR CONTINUED CROATIAN SUPPORT IN ENSURING IRAQI COMPLIANCE WITH UN RESOLUTIONS.
- CONCERN ABOUT CROATIA'S PUSH TO RENEW COOPERATION WITH LIBYA; ZERO "FLEXIBILITY" IN WASHINGTON FOR ANYTHING THAT COULD REMOTELY BE CONSIDERED LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT (LME) TRANSFERS TO STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.
- WE LOOK FOR GOC SUPPORT TO REMOVE LEGAL BARRIERS TO OUR CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ZAGREB 00159 04 OF 04 221843Z MILITARY COOPERATION AND SHIP VISITS.

END CHECKLIST. ROSSIN

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